



March 22, 2012

The Honorable Kenneth Kurtz  
Chairman, House Committee on Families,  
Children and Seniors

Chairman Kurtz and Members of the Committee:

Western Michigan University (WMU) supports the need for autism coverage in the State of Michigan and urges you to support senate bills 414, 415 and 981, legislation that would provide that needed coverage.

WMU's Psychology Department has a nationally renowned program in both training and research in Applied Behavior Analysis – the most highly endorsed evidence based practice and treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Since 2007, WMU has granted degrees to 138 master and doctoral level professionals in the Behavior Analysis Program. Unfortunately, a number of these graduates are not able to find employment in Michigan, due to the lack evidence based treatments available to Michigan families. This legislation would help in creating the access and infrastructure our graduates need to utilize their degrees and ultimately help those diagnosed with autism.

Western Michigan University has strong relationships and works closely with community-based agencies and service providers to deliver programs that bring both intensive residential services and outpatient consultation for those with autism. We believe that the passage of this legislation would help to strengthen and expand those relationships and provide the needed access to evidence based treatments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. B. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Vice President  
Government Affairs